To.

To dream of work and working dream
  Of greater things that must be done;
To have a hope that oft may seem,
  E'en to ourselves, too great a one;
To still be true, though well we knew
  That falsehood be surer gain;
To virtue all our ways incline,
  And will our deeds to love confine;
To purity our thoughts be giv'n,
  With less of earth and more of heav'n;
To work in peace and never cease,
  If all our comrades 'round us rest'
To still look up, though we must bend
  Unto the earth to find our bread;
To charity assistance lend,
  That sick and poor be clothed and fed;
To do our part with willing heart,
  And always working for the best;
To be in right, though we must fight
  For principle, for God and truth;
To bear the stings that pity flings
  Unto the eager, hopeful youth;
To ne'er outlive desires that give
  Impulses to the heart's young vows;
To praise and pray, while long the day
  Seems to our weary, aching brows;
To ask no more, but ever give,
  And be content receiving none;
To often say, e'en as we pray,
  O Lord of earth, "Thy will be done;"
Into our lives less pain convey,
  While nearer God we live each day,
As climbing onward upward still
  To reach the top of Zion's hill,
We stand to view th' extended flood,
  But being washed by Jesus blood,
Redeemed, at last, forevermore,
  Made pure to heaven's golden shore;
Than all the joys of sin combined,
  In which no perfect peace we find.

M. M. STERLING.

Solomon Z. Sharp and the Ashland City Church.

BY D. BAILEY.

Inasmuch as Prof. Sharp has seen fit to publish in one of our local papers as well as the *Gospel Messenger*, certain insinuations derogatory to the Trustees of Ashland College, and also to the Ashland City Church, since that church has always stood by the trustees, it has been thought best that some one should prepare a statement of the facts in the case while the records were still accessible, and since I have access to those records, it seems to fall to my lot to prepare the statement. The facts will be drawn from the records of the Ashland City Church and those of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees of Ashland College. For this reason I prefer to treat the two separately and so will prepare two articles.

I wish it understood at the outstart that this is to be no hit at the German Baptist church, for the reason that there was no division for more than a year after Prof. Sharp left the Ashland City Church.

I think, too, that I am a very appropriate person to make an impartial report of these proceedings, for during these troubles. I always took the Prof's part thinking that certain persons were too hard on him.

Prof. Sharp was one of the original members, and the elder in charge of the Ashland City Church.

The church was organized May 22, 1879, and in about one year thereafter, or June 22, 1880 we find the first record of trouble. Elder Sharp brought a charge against the deacons J. N. Roop and E. J. Worst.

It read as follows: "Have the deacons, without the consent of the church, a right to invite elders of adjoining districts to be present at our council meetings?"

Answer, "Yes, but not to pay their expenses out of the church treasury."

There were present at this meeting, George Irvin, Josiah Keim, A. J. Hixson and P. J. Brown, and it seems they had been called together to investigate certain troubles between S. Z. Sharp and S. H. Bashor. I quote again from the record. "Brother Sharp was called upon to give an explanation of his attending communion meeting when there was an ill-feeling between Bro. Bashor and himself. He explained that he had nothing against Bro. Bashor."

The second charge was: "We find that Bro. Sharp did make the statement that he had something against Bro. Bashor, openly, and afterwards, without any reconciliation, went to communion meeting. For these things we ask him to make an acknowledgement to the church, which he did." Further, "Regarding the charges as to undermining Bro. Sharp and ruining the College etc., etc., we consider that Bro. Sharp has utterly failed to sustain his charges and we acquit Bro. Bashor of such doings or intentions." And in the same connection:

"*Resolved*, That the Ashland City Church considers the past difficulties settled today and forever dropped; and that any member who may, in the future, rake up these settled matters, shall be considered an offender and shall fall under the censure of the church and shall be dealt with accordingly."

Bro. Bashor and wife were granted travelling letters at this time.

On Dec. 30, 1880, another committee of elders viz., Workman, Brown, Garver and Irvin visited the Ashland City Church to investigate difficulties among the officers. Eld. Sharp preferred a charge against J. N. Roop, J. H. Worst and J. E. Roop "for failing to do what they promised," says the minutes. At an adjourned session the next morning the following charges against Eld. S. Z. Sharp were presented.

1. Writing a letter to Bro. Wolfe, of the church of California, seriously reflecting against the character of S. H. Bashor and the object of his visit to California.

2. Violating the decision made by the church the day Bro. Bashor's travelling letter was granted, the substance of which was, that any one reopening the matters that day settled, which had previously existed between Sharp and Bashor, would fall under the censure of the church.

3. Writing said letter without counciling the church."

After some discussion, the elders retired and received the individual opinions of the members. They then presented the following report which was adopted by the church:

1. We think the charges brought by Bro. Sharp against brethren J. H. Worst and the Roop brothers were more from motives of retalliation than from real cause.

2. We decide that the letter written to Bro. Wolfe was wrong on the part of Bro. Sharp and he shall confess the same. (He did so at this time.)

3. Bro. Sharp shall be deprived of the oversight of the Ashland City Church, and the church be placed under the care of R. H. Miller.

4. As regards the charges against Bro. Bashor in letter from E. K. Buechly, we decide that they are not sustained and we shall refer the matter back to the church where brother Buechly lives."

Prof. Sharp was still dissatisfied, however, and found fault with the trustees of Ashland College. An effort was made to settle this by arbitration. The trustees selected Eld. James Quinter, Eld. Sharp chose Geo. W. Cripe and they selected Jacob Rife for the third man.

The records do not show what the charges were, and I do not know that it is necessary in this connection.

The record states, however, that "the decision of the committee was unanimously accepted by both trustees and members of the Ashland City Church."

Brother Sharp received a church letter at this time and was therefore no longer connected with the Ashland City Church.

SOLOMON Z. SHARP AND ASHLAND COLLEGE.

I now come to a part of my subject when the sailing is not so plain. I was an eye witness to many of the events to be here recorded and I think that Eld. Sharp was not, in all cases, treated with the respect that his position demanded; but, on the other hand, I think no blame should be attached to the trustees, and while some might have shown Prof. Sharp more respect, it cannot be expected that much respect will be shown to a position that is held by trickery.

At the time of the trouble with Prof. Sharp I was not in any way connected with the College, and I honestly felt that I had cause to feel hard toward the trustees, and as I stood listening to charge and counter-charge while many of the movements were obscured, as it were, by the smoke of battle, I was inclined to the belief that Prof. Sharp was not fairly treated and I held this belief until the veil was lifted and I was permitted to see the true merits of the case.

On April 12th, 1878, less than two months after the incorporation of the school the following resolution was passed:

"*Resolved*, That we appoint S. Z. Sharp as President of the College until the first annual election of trustees is held."

Prof. Sharp accepted in the following letter:

ASHLAND, OHIO, JUNE 4, 1878.

Trustees of Ashland College:

I hereby formally accept the position as President of said College to which you elected me on the 12th, day of April last with the understanding that my salary shall not exceed one thousand dollars for the first year, and that I obligate myself to reduce the above sum so much as I reasonably can. Salary to began on the day of opening the College.

Signed,

S. Z. SHARP.

On the same day the following resolution was passed:

"*Resolved*, That Bro. Sharp be appointed and duly authorized to act as General Financial agent for the Ashland College, it being his duty to solicit funds, calling to his aid as many other agents as his judgment may direct."

The first difference between Prof. Sharp and the Board was in regard to the propriety of building a Boarding hall.

The first plan of the board was to temporize. On April 8, 1879, the matter was brought up and postponed until the next meeting, at which time it was postponed indefinitely.

This did not please the President. The trustees claimed their policy had always been to spend no money until the amount was covered by *bona fide* subscription. The College building would require the entire subscriptions and they were not willing to obligate themselves for any more.

The President replied that he was Gereral Solicitor and that he could within three months secure $20,000 for the Boarding Hall within the State of Indiana, alone. Bro. Packer, also a solicitor, insisted that a Boarding Hall be built at once. So strong did they insist on the matter that the scruples of the Board were overthrown and on June 10th, 1879 the following was passed:

"*Resolved*, That we put up a Boarding Hall shortly, provided we can get the loan of some money to build it."

There were present at this meeting Sadler, Moherman, Dickey, Myers, Arnold, Roop, Zimmerman and Sharp. Three of the trustees offered their resignations soon after this and probably on account of this action.

This was the beginning of the debt of Ashland College. Prof. Sharp never made good his promise to raise the $20,000 by canvassing. As to the utility of the Boarding Hall; the experience of all schools is that they are a source of loss. It might have been necessary for the College to have control of some rooms for a short time so that the price of rooms could be regulated, but it was in no way desirable that many students should be congregated in one building.

In Nov. 1879 Pres. Sharp reported to the trustees that he was troubled by an insubordinate student and seemed to make an effort to have the trustees act on the matter without knowing who the student, was. It appeared, however, that the faculty had made a rule that all productions for the literary society should be submitted to the faculty before being made public, this J. H. Worst, then a young minister had neglected to do, and in the discussion Pres. Sharp went so far as to say that if Worst did not leave, he would. My recollection is that brother Worst was editor of the society paper, and that certain articles not very complimentary the President were read.

The decision of the Board was that brother Worst had acted unwisely in not submitting those productions, and that Pres. Sharp had acted unwisely in reporting the matter to the Board without first appealing to the young man in a brotherly way.

On April 13th, 1880, we find the following action in which Pres. Sharp was interested: